

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 14, 2014

In Attendance: John Hall, Cindi Perugini, Ron Krom, Kate Wolfe, Pam Frost, Amy Vallincourt

One correction to the previous minutes:

Laura's last name was spelled Balm. The correct spelling is Baum.

Community Events Calendar:

Nothing new to report.

Action Plan:

John stated the sidewalk repairs on East Ridge and Ridge Road are on hold due to a conflict with neighbors regarding the health of the trees in the area. Jane Harris has determined the trees have a fungus and need to be cut down, however the community disagrees.

River Road Railroad tracks repairs: Cindi has been in contact with Gilbert Smart, DOT Director of the Office of Rails regarding the River Road railroad tracks improvements. To date nothing has been done to make the tracks safe, however Mr. Smart is scheduling a meeting with the City of Middletown PW, and the railroad company to discuss alternatives. Cindi expressed displaying signs for cyclists to dismount prior to the tracks would not be a feasible solution. The area across and surrounding the tracks are also unsafe to travel on.

Action Plan #5 A II: Funding sources for purchase of table top displays, CS paraphernalia

- Amy suggested the Rockfall Foundation as a source for small grants
- Steve Young of Young Printing is an avid cyclist, maybe he will assist CS with the printing of pamphlets, banners etc., Amy will reach out to him
- Laura Baum President of Bike Walk CT may have knowledge of funding sources
- Pam suggested a slide show with CS presentation can be set up at events. Maybe when students return to Middlesex CC, CS can have a student assist with this project
- Amy will contact Nancy Stadler, who did a lot of marketing for the City of Middletown, for ideas
- Pam will contact Susan Vannes of NEAT, who has marketing experience with NEAT

Family Bike Ride Review:

The ride was a success. The Police Department assisted with the traffic flow and shut down the streets so participants could ride safely on the roads. The ride is on the agenda for next year's Health and Safety Day. The sight will be moved back to downtown Middletown.

Suggestions:

- CS have some paraphernalia to give to people
- More publicity for the bike event sponsored by CS

Review of revised data for traffic count on Arrigoni Bridge: 5/31/14, 6/3/14

David was not in attendance and has not forwarded the revised data.

Commission Presentations:

John will look into getting CS on the agenda for the Public Safety Commission. He will also schedule a meeting with the Mayor with a few members of the committee to discuss the direction of Complete Streets.

Items for discussion with Mayor Drew:

- CS sponsored bike ride (River Road) unsafe condition of River Road
- Enforcement of “No bikes on Sidewalk” Law by the Police Department
- Complete Streets Committee accomplishments

Revisit Outreach List:

The list was forwarded to committee members for review. Most of those on the list have knowledge of the CS existence and efforts. It was suggested the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments be included.

Mattabasset Trail Opening:

John has made a request through Joe Samolis for a date for the ribbon cutting.

The continuation of the Mattabasset Trail project through Lawrence School to High School and along Newfield Street to Veterans Park. Bill Russo requested Bob Dobmier and Tom Nigosanti to develop a cost for this extension which was valued at 4 million. The Public Works Commission is on board with the project.

Bike Friendly Community application:

Beth was not in attendance for review of this project.

Woodrow Wilson School Outreach: Laura and Kate

This was addressed at the previous meeting. To date Laura has not provided a written report.

Bike route in Middletown:

Previous meeting addressed the possibility of a bike route from Union Park/South Green to the riverfront. However the safety concern of the railroad tracks is a major issue.

Questions:

- Do we need permission from the City to conduct a bike ride?
- Liability? Insurance?

Fall 2014 Ideas:

CS sponsored family bike ride

Enforcement of “No Bikes on Sidewalk” Law:

Discussion was held regarding the Police Departments recent decision to enforce the “no bikes on the sidewalk” law on Main Street. Main Street is unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians, therefore some have chosen to ride bikes on the sidewalk. Main Street is large enough for bike lanes and should be in future infrastructure planning. This decision was made without any input from CS and no consideration for the Master Plan guidelines. It is necessary to get the Police Department on board with the CS vision. John will speak with Mayor Drew.

CS committee members need more personal interaction with members of the City Commissions.

Accidents involving Pedestrians, 1 fatality:

1 pedestrian fatality crossing MLK Boulevard.

Next meeting: August 11, 2014, 7 pm Council Chambers